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To: [R5 ER Notification List](#)
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Subject: ER Notification #2, LaSalle Chemical Fire Site, LaSalle, Illinois
Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:12:05 PM

ER Notification #2: LaSalle Chemical Fire Site LaSalle, IL, NRC#1357400

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report Date: 1/11/2023, 1900 CST

Overview: Multiple explosions and a large fire occurred at a chemical plant operated by Carus LLC in LaSalle, LaSalle County, Illinois. The plant manufactures water treatment and pollution control chemicals, including permanganates and possibly phosphates, polymers and catalysts. The plant was evacuated and a shelter-in-place order was in effect in the vicinity of the plant during the fire but the order has now been lifted. The fire is mostly extinguished but may continue smoldering. Fire watch will continue through the night. The plant is adjacent to the Little Vermillion River, which flows to the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal and the Illinois River. No releases have been detected in surface water at this time. The PRP has hired a private cleanup contractor to perform remediation activities.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions and Roles: Multiple fire departments responded along with MABAS resources to address the fire, which has now been extinguished. LaSalle County EMA is incident command on site. Illinois EPA and USCG MSU Chicago responded to assist with activities including river monitoring.

EPA Actions and Roles: Illinois EPA and LaSalle County EMA requested EPA assistance with air monitoring. An EPA OSC responded along with START contractors and are conducting perimeter and neighborhood air monitoring. There is a Superfund Site (Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company) immediately adjacent to the chemical plant. The EPA RPM is in contact with the OSC. An IMAAC plume model was requested and sent to on scene responders. EPA participated in a press conference at 1600 CST.

Media Interest: High

Media Links:

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/fire-rages-illinois-chemical-plant-residents-ordered-shelter-2023-01-11/>
<https://abc7chicago.com/lasalle-fire-illinois-carus-chemical-plant/12688768/>

Note: See <https://response.epa.gov/lasallechemicalfire> for additional information.

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The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

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